Syn. 8. 57. 63

THE COPIE

of a Letter writen out

of Scotland, by an English Gentlemã of credit and worſhip ſeruing ther, vnto a frind and kinſman of his, that deſired to be informed of the truth and circumſtances of the ſlaunderous and infamous reportes made of the Quene of Scotland, at that time reſtreined in maner as priſoner in England, vpon pretenſe to be culpable of the ſame.

BIBL GANT ACAD.
R. 12. 74.

WHereas you require me, to ſende you myne owne knowledge & the trueſt informatiõ that I can otherwiſe get, touching y

A troth

troth or vntroth of thinfamous
reports made of the Queenes
Maiestie of Scotland, for & a-
bout the death of the Lord Dar
ley her late husband: vnderstād
you, that albe it your requeſt
may do much with me, yet whē
I haue gone about to accom-
plish thesame, I find the entre-
prise thereof greater, then per-
haps it semed to your self: the
practise of the matter consisting
in many parts depending one
vpon an other from sundry ye
res past, so secretly contriued,
that now some difficultie is it
to boult out the truth, & with-
al the particularities & circum-
stāces so intricat, that it would
require the labour of a better
penman, then my self, to set out
the same.

And that which I haue don
albeit I began it at your re
quest

queſt, yet when I had entred to informe my ſelf of the bottome therof, I began then to thinke, that euen for dutie & conſcience ſake, I was bound to beſtowe therin a litle more paine, regarding the terrible ſequeles and lamentable conſequẽces, which I might perceiue were intended to be grounded & builded vpon ſuch forged foundations and malitious inuentions, as I plainly diſcouered from time to time to be newly contriued, not only firſt ageynſt her Maieſties ſelf, but then alſo ageinſt her ſaid huſband, & enery other good ſeruant and ſubiect, that could not be hoped to be won to the Aduers partie: I meane Iames Stewarde baſtard brother to the Queene, Prior of S. Andrew. Who though he had bene created by her Earle

of Murrey, & aduanced to more then 25. thousand pounds Scottish of yearely reuenue, had yet his eye bent vpon such a marke & ende, as few or none of long time were able to espie: that is to say, an aspiring ambition to vsurpe ẏ Crowne of the Realm vnto himself, so as whiles they ẏ first set him on worke, suborning him to take the matter in hand, & stil suppozted him in the same, thought thereof to serue their owne turnes, & least intended that, whiche he most eyed: euen so did he likewise in his course and path, by acceptinge their pensions and so muche of their counselles, as made for his turne, serued him selfe, and made his profit of them.

And now for the more plain, orderly and compendious opening of the matter, I haue thought good, so to frame my speache

speache, as if my selfe were the answerer of the Obiections, & to diuide the same into fower parts or chapiters. In ỹ first I wil place the Answers to certein friuolous presumptions, that seme to be gathered out of some infamous libel, or slaũderous pamflet that hath bene set forth against ỹ Quene, & shewed in sundry Cours of Princes abrode: whereby they labour to induce some shew of likelihod, that ỹ Quenes Highnes might be cõsenting to the murder of ỹ Lord Darley her late husband: whom they themselues cruelly made away, as in ỹ course & processe of ỹ matter shal clerely appere. And in that part also shal ensue vehemẽt presumptiõs on the cõtrary side, that maketh it more thã probable, that it could not possibly be, that her Grace could be consenting therunto.

2. In the second you shall see the Obiections of the Accusers, with the Answer that is to be made vnto them, & therwithal certein cleare and notorious prouses of her Maiesties innocēcie, for any maner foreknowledge or consent therevnto.

3. In ỹ third Chapter you shal finde, not only vehement presumptions, but moste cleare & euident prouffes, that her Accusers them selues, mainely the Earle of Murrey her bastard brother, were the contriuers, procurers and some of them the Actors of the sayd murder.

4. The fourth Chapter shal dissipher vnto you the whole plat of this foule tragedie, with the particuler parts therof, frō the first Acte to the last, so farforth as may yet be opened, hauing

ning ſuch reſpect, as is conue-
nient to ſome of the parties yet
liuyng, with a ſhort remon-
ſtrãce of Gods wonderful woꝛ
kinges therein, in merciful pꝛe-
ſeruing the innocent Lady and
her deare ſonne, in diſcouering
the drift of thoſe moſte lewde &
vile pꝛactiſes, and due pũniſh-
ment already taken vpon ſome
of the Malefactoꝛs.

The anſwer to certen friuolous ſurmiſes made by the ſlaunderers, wherby they laboure to inſinuate ſome likelyhod, that the Queene of Scotland ſhould be conſenting to the murder of the Noble prince the lord Darley her late huſband, together with other vehement preſumptions produced in her defence to the contrary.

CAPVT. 1.

1. IT is like (say they) she was willing to the murder: for there was no good agreement betweene the Queene and hes said husband.

2. Item, the said Lord Darley was not so honourably buried, as had bene conuenient.

Answer to the first.

To the former of these two ghesses it is answeared, that though there had bene once in very dede some vnkindnes betweene them, by reason of the Lorde Darley being abused for want of yeares & experience, by the subtile practises of the craftie fore the Earle of Murrey & his Complices, who sought to kindle in the mind of that noble yong Gentleman an ambitious desire to aspire to the kingdom, & to conceaue vnkindnes in the Queene,

Queene, for that hauing made him her husband, she did not also forthwith make him king of her Realme, hauing therfore perswaded him, to ioyne with them in the murder of Dauid her faithfull Secretarie (whom they made him beleue to be his hinderer) and in the vndutifull and insolent restraint of her person: yet the sayd Lord Darley sone after finding his owne errour, and perceiuing, that their attempts tended to farther and worse ende then at the first pretended, and being ashamed of his very euill & vnkind dealing, through euil counsel, toward her Highnes, to whom he was so singulerly bound, reconciled him selfe in suche hartie sort to her Grace, and so discouered vnto her all the deslignementes, that he knewe of

the said Murrey and his Complices: that al thing past being remitted, ther renewed betwen them as harty loue, as euer had ben, according to the old & true saying: Amantium irę amoris redintegratio est. And therupō (for proufe that the reconciliation was vnfeyned of her part) by her excellent wit and policie first she saued both him and her self, by making shift secretly in the night to escape out of the chamber: where after the murder of Dauid they had rudely thruste her being great with childe, and detcined her imprisoned with no small danger of her life.

Moreouer her Highnes hearing not long after, that vpon his arriual at Glasco, he was fallen sicke, forthwith repaired to him with all spede, cumfor-

ting

ting and cherishing him in all she could, till she had recouered him: and euen so likewise at Edenborough she kept cũpany with him, and tenderly cherished him euen to the very last houre that euer she sawe him, so that longe before his death there was not only a perfect reconciliation betweene thẽ, but suche hartie and faithfull loue, as no practice that Murrey and his fellowes could make, was hable effsones to worke any breache betweene them. Which considered, and beeing notoriously knowen to be true, a man may with Terence truely say to the suggester of that presumption:

Non sat commodè
Diuisa sunt temporibus tibi,
Daue, hæc.

To the second presumptiō by the slaūderers alleaged, in that he was not so solemnely buried, as was conuenient: it is answered, that his body was honourably enbalmed, seared, and interred bysides king James the v. her Graces father, and was accompanied to that place with Justice Clarke, the Lorde of Traquar, and many other Gentlemen of reputation. The ceremonies in dede were (against her Graces wil) the fewer, bycause the most part of her Councell were Protestants, who could abide no ceremonies, & some of them had before interred their owne Noble parents without accustomed solemnities and ceremonies. 3. But it had bene no harde matter for her Highnes, neyther wanted she wisedome and policie,

licie, if she had bene guiltie of his death, to haue cloked the same with solemne funeralles: which hath ben, & is a thing very vsual & cõmon in such cases.

The two simple presumptions of the Aduersaries being thus truely answered, I will now lay foorth certaine others on the other side of farre more weight, to shewe, that it was neither likely, nor almost possible, that her Highnes could be consenting to that foule murder of her dere husband.

First, bycause that Sexe generally abhorreth by nature suche horrible murder, it could not possibly be, that of many other women her Highnes (who had alwaies before appeared to be of a most milde, courteous & honourable nature, seeking by wonderfull clemencie & mercie to winne 1.

to winne the harts of her ene-
mies (of whom she had before
pardoned some more thē once)
could by any likelyhod fal vpō
the sodaine frō the heigth of so
excellēt vertue, as she was re-
noumed for through Christen-
dom, to the depe pit of such hor
rible synne and crueltie: as to
murder her owne husband, a
noble and goodly yong Prince
whom shee so tenderly loued.
For that as good men assisted
with Gods grace, doo dayly
rise as it were by degrees from
vertue to vertue: so no man
becommeth vpon the sodaine,
of excellent vertuous, extreme
vitious, but descendeth rather
by diuers stepps from worse to
worse, before he come to the
hiddeous bottomme of suche
vnnaturall crueltie, as vnneth
a Tygre, or any other sauage
beast

beast would haue vsed towarde her make.

Secondly if her Highnes had bene desirous to haue bene rid of him (wherof there is no probabilitie) she had good & lawfull meane to haue compassed that by ordinarie course of law, for the murder of her Secretary, in whose body his dagger was founde sticking. For though he were her Graces husband, yet was he in an other respect her subiect, and vnder her lawes. 2.

Thirdly she wold not cõsent so much as to be diuorced from him, whervnto diuers of her Nobilitie earnestly aduised & persuaded her: to whome she modestly and louingly answered, that she would in no wise so doo. For though he were yet yong, and somewhat loose, 3.

for

for want of experience and staied wisedome: yet shee nothing doubted, but he would in time proue a noble, wise and vertuous Gentleman, and that she should with her dutiful and louing behauiour toward him sone winne & reduce him from those smal ouersights, which his tender mynde corrupted with euil counsel, had fallen into, whereof she sawe in him alreadie a modest misliking, and thereby great cause to hope as she did. But that euery way how ss euer he should at any time forget him selfe, yet shee would neuer wittingly cõmit thing, whereby shee should on her part, seeme in any respect vnmindefull of her dutie toward him, whome shee did and would hartely loue, not doubting of the like in time

at his

at his hande toward her.

Fourthly, it is to be considered, and not impertinent to this weightie case, to obserue the Rule of Casius, in examinyng and consideryng, Cui bono? Whiche in suche coniecturall causes may geue great light of the truth, by noting, whether parte, the accuser, or els the accused, were like to take moste benefit by the fact. 4

It is certain, that her Highnes could gaine nothing therby, but the heauy displeasure of God, and perpetual infamie to her personne: without the hasarding whereof she had good and orderly meane, by due course of lawe, to haue bene ridde of him, had she bene so disposed. But by the dispatche of him in that sorte, the

Earle

Earle Murrey gayned firſt to be reuenged of him for reuolting from him, and diſcloſing to the Queene his moſte traiterous conſpiracies and vnkind practiſes ageynſte her Highnes: to whome the ſayd Earle was for her great liberalitie & bountifulnes towarde him ſo ſingularly bound. He geyned alſo that notable occaſiõ, which he had long ſought, to drawe the Queene into ſlaunder and miſlike with her beſt frinds: which was one principall ſtep toward the ende, wherevnto his ambitious minde tended.

The anſwer to the two principal points, wherevpon the ſlaunderers doe moſte ſtifly relye, as the chiefe colours of any probabilitie in their moſt ſlaunderous accuſation of the

of the Queenes Highnes, togeather with certaine moſte notorious and clere proufes of her Graces innocencie, in procuring, allowing, or ſo muche as foreknowing any whit of that horrible fact.

CAPVT. 2.

Obiections.

BYſydes the coniectural preſumptions before remẽbred two eſpecial thinges are there (ſay they) ſo notorious to conuince her of procuring the murder: that ſhe nor any her frinds can euer, as they thinke, be hable to auoyde them.

1. The firſt is a letter of her owne hand writtẽ to the Earle Bothwell, which letter (they ſay) was founde emong other letters in a box taken vpon Dugglish the Earle Bothwels man:

man: who was sent with the said box to the Earle his Master, from Sir James Balfoze Capteine of Edenbozough Castle.

2. The second (wherwith they assure themselues they haue hit cuē the naile on the very head) is her mariage with the Earle Bothwel, who is wel knowen (as they now say) to haue bene one of the murderers of ỳ Lozd Darley her fozmer husband.

This is (say they) in the iudgemēt of al the wozld such a testimonie ageynst her, as there is nothing to be said vnto it.

These in dede carie a great shew, and geue a very hollow sound: but so doth the emptie tunne, if it be knocked on, yea it geueth a greater sound, then that which is ful of good wine. So doth the Cannon charged only

onely with pouder, make as greate a noyse, as that which shooteth forth a stone, and battereth the sturdy bulwarke.

But first for answer of your letter, whiche you make suche price of, & haue so often shewed both in the Court of England, and in al other places, where you haue come, as it might be wondered, that it should not be worne in peeces with often handling long eare this time, if you had not some extraordinarie meane to preserue or renewe it: I pray you, let me demaunde of you, what date beareth the letter? None, you say. No doth? wel, go to, perhaps it might be forgotten. whose name is subscribed thereto? None. No is? why, how should the Earle then knowe, whence it came?

wel inough, you say, by the hand which was her owne, and so well knowen. Why? Then might she as wel haue aduentured the subscribinge of her name, as the writyng of the letter with her owne knowen hand. But had it, trow we, any superscription? Trucly to say, it had none neither. How know you then, that it was writen to the Earle Bothwel, and not as wel to any other man? The messenger (you wil say) knew wel inough, to whom he shuld deliuerit. That mai be, but how knowe you? Haue you at any time spokē with him, that was the bearer thereof to the Earle? It is wel knowen, ye neither, haue, nor could: syns ther was neuer any suche messenger, nor euer any such letter sent by her or receyued by him, as shall here-

hereafter plainely inough appeare. But this letter, I doubt not, cõteining such secrets, was fast and cunningly sealed. In good sooth, men say that haue seene it, there is no shewe, that euer it was sealed, or fast closed. A foule ouersight truely. You may see, the olde saying is true, that often tymes haste maketh waste. But what good lucke had you, so luckely to light on this letter, so long after: syns there is special request made therin to the receiuer, presently to burne it, after he had read it? wel, let vs consider yet a litle better of this dealing, and conferre the times: perhappe we may thereby finde some more light in the matter.

This letter (you say) was taken vpon Duggelish emong other letters sent in a box from

Sir

Sir Iames Balfoore the Captaine of Edenborough Castle. When? Forsoth after you had taken armes against the Queene and Bothwel, & driuen them both to flee. But who can beleue you herein? Is ther (I pray you) any probabilitie or likelyhod, that either the Erle would sende to the said Sir Iames, who assisted ỹ factiõ against the Quene with the strẽgth & force of Edenborough Castle, & had driuen frõ thẽce the very Earle him self? Or is it likely, that the sayd Sir Iames would for goodwil seke to cõuey any such thing to the Earle, whose open enemie he was? Is this likely? Is it credible? May, would he not rather haue kept it for euidence against the Queene and the sayd Erle Bothwel for some colour & excuse of ỹ vndu-

tiful

tiful reuolte made by himselfe, & the rest of you against her highnes, being his & your lawful & naturall Soueraign? May it not once againe be said wel & truely to ỹ foister in of this false die?

Non sat cõmodè Diuisa sunt
temporibus tibi, Daue, hæc.

Can any wise man thinke it likely, that the Queene hauing alwaies shewed herself so modest, so circumspecte and wise, wold write any such letter with her owne hande, as might by any possibilitie be produced against her in such euident sort to touch her honour? Or if shee had ben so void of grace, of her wõted womãly shamefastnes, & of al regard to her honour, as she could haue condescended to write any such letter, was she so sodeinly becom so simple of wit & he also, ỹ both thei wold haue

ſuffered that letter to remaine extãt to the peril of them both, namely ſince the Earle was (you ſay) expreſſely required in the ſame, foorthwith to burne it? But yet it is her letter, you ſay. How proue you it? Or is your credit ſuch that you think men muſt needes beleue it, becauſe you ſay it? The Ciuil Law, by which your Coũtrey is gouerned, ſaith: Sciãt cũcti accuſatores &c. In Engliſh thus.

L. fin. C. de probat.

Let al accuſers know, that they muſt bring to publik notice only ſuch thing, as is cõfirmed by apte, lauful and ſufficiẽt witneſſes, or layd foorth with open documents and demonſtration, or plainly vnfolded by vndoubtful prouffes as cleare as the day light.

This rule in the triall of criminal cauſes is to be obſerued toward

toward the poorest & moste abiect person that liueth. Let vs see then, whether you haue obserued it toward your Soueraigne. You produce to defame her, a letter, which you say she wrote with her owne hand to ỹ Erle Bothwel: which letter yet beareth no date, no subscriptiõ, no superscription, no scale, no one word in it of cõmandmẽt to cõmit the vile murder or any other cruel fact, or importing any liking, or somuch as knowlege of any such fact before don. But you say, it hath in it these suspicious wordes: our affaiers. As though the Queene had no affaiers to imploie her faithful & forretried subiect but in the murdring of her husbãd, which you ghesse she mẽt by those words. O impudẽt & vnkind subiects, that be not ashamed, if she had

writte any such thing, to measure & construe the meaning of your moste vertuous Soueraigne, by the vitious cõcepts that possesse your owne vnnatural and dishonest mindes! But who was the bearer of this letter? Of like, the man in ỹ mone. For he that you would needes face to be the bearer, toke God and his conscience to recorde at his death, that it was vtterly vntrue. So doth ỹ Queene her self, protesting vpõ her honour and faith, that she neuer wrote that letter. So did her Highnes Commissioners at Yorke, openly producing, for proufe that it was forged, two other letters written in her name with her hand notably counterfaited by one emong you, whom for some respects I wil forbeare to name.

There

There is recorded by Valerius Maximus, of a noble Roman, whose name was M. Æmilius Scaurus, a man of greate credit, and seruice in the commō weith, that was accused by one Varius a vile person of no credit or accōpt: to whose accusation the Noble man woulde vouchsafe no other answer but thus: He saith it: I denie it. Upon which onely answer, the people of Rome, being present, did not onely with one voice presently acquit ỹ noblemā: but forthwith thei fel vpō ỹ accuser, & forced him out of ỹ place, not without some daunger of his life. Suche was the credit of that Nobleman, and such the Noble consideration of that graue and wel aduised people: ỹ his only denial weied downe all that the other had craftily forged,

Lib. 1. cap. 7. de fiducia sui.

forged, & was estemed for suf-
ficient matter both to acquit ye
accused, & to condemne the accu
ser. The like with as good rea-
son might haue ben don in this
case, vpō the only denial of this
moste noble Queene & renou-
med Ladie. But thus muche
I thought not amisse to sette
doune in answer of this point
of the supposed letter, for the
ful satisfiyng of the curious.

Now to the answere of the
3. second Obiection touching the
pretensed mariage of the Earle
Bothwel, it might be wonde-
red, with what face they them-
selues, that were the earnest so-
licitours and procurers of the
Queene ther vnto, could haue ye
boldenes now to charge her
Highnes therewith, if so many
their other doinges had not
shewed them to be past al shame
& grace,

& grace. But for the cleare open-
ning of that drift, it is to be
knowen & deepely considered,
that the Earle Murrey, hauing
as it may seeme, sucked a trai-
terous minde euen with the
milke of his lewde mother,
prefixing to him selfe, that no-
thing could better serue to the
aduancement of his traiterous
designements, then to bring
the Queene into slaunder and
obloquie of the world, & therby
to alienate from her the minds
of her frindes and subiectes:
found now, that the next parte
he had to plaie, was to worke,
if he could by any policie, suche
a fetche, as the Queene might
be brought ignorātly to match
herselfe in mariage with one of
the murtherers. Be therefore
layed al his irons in the fyre,
& leaft no stone vnremoued, or

way vnattempted, to perſuade her bothe by earneſt letters, (which her Highnes hath yet to ſhewe ſigned with his owne hand, and with the handes of diuers Noble men, and others his Confederats) as alſo with diligent and daily ſolicitations otherwiſe (namely by one of their conſpiracie then placed about her for that purpoſe) to take to huſband the ſaid Earle Bothwel, whom (to remone al ſcruple) they the Conſpirators them ſelues had acquitted by their verdict, of the murder, whereof he was ſomewhat ſuſpected: hauing alſo prepared an open way to that part of the Tragedie, by procuring a diuorce alitle before, at the ſute of ỹ olde Coũteſſe of Huntley, betwene the ſaid Earle Bothwel and his wife, her daughter, for

that

that they were so nere of kinne, as with conscience (forsoth) thei might not continue together. Pretending farther vnto the Queene, that bysides ꝑ diuorce before lawfully passed (as they said) God had also taken the said Ladie Bothwel to his mercie, so as to apparence there remained no impediemente, but that her Highnes might marie him. And so they earnestly aduised and praied her Grace to doe, as the onely manne, that for his Nobilitie, wisedome, valiantnesse, and many other vertues, they all iudged the fittest husbande in the Realme for her Highnesse, & most likely by his wisedome to staie the troubles, ꝑ were like to growe by ꝑ diuers factions, that were emōg ꝑ noble men: who would sooner be appeased, and commit

their differents to be composs-
ded by him, then by any stran-
ger, whose rule they should
perhappes not be very apt so
willingly to brooke.

The Queene seing this their
earnest sute, with their moste
faithfull promises (as they see-
med) of willing service & most
assured loialtie to the vttermost
of their power, in case shee
would take the said Erle Both
wel to her husband, myngled
also with some threats, if shee
should refuse so to do: & withal
calling to her mind the sodeine
and diuers vprores and sedi-
tions allready made ageynst
her, the cruel murder of her
Secretarie in her owne pre-
sence, the late strange and most
lamentable murder of her hus-
band, the diseumforte, distresse
and desolate estate wherein she
pre-

presently stode, the Earles actiuitie in martial affaiers, the good & faithful seruice done by him to her mother and her self: fearing also some new sturre & imminēt troble, if she should denie and refuse this so earnest sute made vnto her by her Nobilitie (though she wer always before that time very wise, circumspect & prudent in al other her doinges: yet being a womā circumuented by so many craftie heads, & tossed with diuers cogitations, neuer being opēly or priuately so muche as once admonished, that he was in trouth guiltie of the murder (which seing and hearing, as shee sawe and heard, she found no manner cause to suspect) and being in the myddes of these careful thoughts, was met one day, as she was ryding vpon

the

the way toward Kircliſten, by the ſaid Earle armed & accompanied with men of warre, & by him taken from her companie, & perforce caried to Dunbarre Caſtle, where what with faire meanes, and what with ſetting before her eyes many imminēt dāgers, if ſhe refuſed, & being deſtitute of al cōſell or aduiſe, & of all preſence & acceſſe of any of her faithful ſeruāts or frinds, at ỳ laſt ſhe aſſented (at ỳ ſute made by himſelf, & ſo many other of the Nobilitie) to that pretenſed mariage. The conſummation wherof, the Confederates had not ſo ſone cōpaſſed, but forthwith they proceeded to the next Act of their Tragedie, geuing out bruits into al Countries, ỳ ſhe had cauſed her huſbād to be murthered, & maried ỳ murderer, which for ỳ it ſtood

stood not (forsoth) with their ho nour to indure, they presently toke armes, & eftsones rebelled ageinst their said Soueraigne, blinding & bewitching ẏ world for ẏ time, with the probabilitie of their assertiō much increased by that her pretensed mariage: wherof themselues were only ẏ procurers, as before they had bene of the murthering of her Secretarie and her husband.

Thus do you see, how this good Lady hath ben handled, & how easie a matter it is for a nūber of subtill & crafty heads, to ouertake & deceiue a good, milde & wel meaning Lady destitute of coūsel. For her faithful coūsellers seeing the number & puissance of ẏ cōtrary faction so great, & by Knoxes pulpit alarmes daily so increase, taking a fair warning by ẏ secretaries

end,

end, durst not once quitche, or geue vnto her Grace such sound aduise, as their duties required But hereof inough. Let the Cõspirators make now what thei can of the pretensed mariage: the more they talke therof, the more they do manifest to the world their owne most shamelesse impudencie, in turning now to an argument of suspicion ageynst the Queene, that which them selues so busily contriued, and vnnaturally executed. Whereof their owne letters, handes, and seales remaine witnesses voide of all suspicion.

Thus hauing answered these two their chief & principal Obiectiõs, to wit, of the letter & of ỹ pretensed mariage: I wil lay forth before you certeine cleare proufes and notorious testimonies

monies of her innocencie of that case of the murder.

First vnderstand you, that a seruāt of the Earle Bothwel being executed for the murder, confessed in the hearing of fiue thousand people and mo, that Murrey and his Complices were the principal counsailers and assisters with his master in that murder, and that so his master had tolde him: and confessed also to haue sene the Indentures, wherein the Conspirators had bound them selues eche to other, to make away the Lorde Darley vpon the first opportunitie that might be offered.

Also John Hay of Tallowe, Bourie, Duggliſh and Paris being al put to death, for that they were the executioners of that murder, did al and euery

of them seuerally at their death, protest vpon their consciences, as they hoped to be saued at the latter daie, that not onely the Queenes highnes was vtterly innocent and vnwitting of the Lord Darleys death, but that the same was cõmitted chiefly by the counsel, inuention, and drift of the Earle Murrey, and some others, whose names I spare for inst respectes.

2. Secondly, the Lord Harris, a stout, graue, & faithful Noble man (who was at the first made priuy to the deuise, & after vpon good causes to long to be rehersed in this letter) withdrew himself from any farther action or dealing in the matter, tolde an Earle yet liuing, to his face euen at the Earles owne table, nulla circuitione vsus, that the saide Earle was of counsell to the

the murder of the Lorde Darley.

And afterward at Yorke did the like openly in presence of the English Commissioners, to the face of Murrey, and of the other (whose name I will forbeare to expresse, in hope of his repentance) and there protested, that he well knewe, the Queene to be vtterly giltlesse and innocente of the matter, nobly demaunding the combat of them both in that quarrel.

Thirdly, when the Conspiderates hauing nowe laid and raised so farforth the foundation of their building, that they thought the worlde blinded with the mistes they had cast, would iudge they had reason in their doings: then proceeded they to open rebellion, taking

taking armes, and assembling people agaynst their Queene, whome they falsely charged with diuers crimes without care of their conscience, allegeance, the offense of God or regarde to any other honest or ductiful respect, being caried hedlong with a furious desire only to that end, wherto their restlesse ambitious heads had so longe before bended their Macheuelian practises.

The Queene seeing this, assembled likewise a strong armie of her faithful subiects, to repelle these Rebels. whereupō thei perceiuing her Heighnes to draw fast toward them, sent to her from Edenborough (where by the fauour of Sir James Balfore the Castellan they had assembled them selues and their power) a Noble man

mā yet lyuing, who in ỹ names of al the lords and other confederats, did most humbly vpon his knees assure her Highnes of the securitie of her person, of the safetie both of her life and honour, and of al loialtie and obedience at their hands, if it would please her Grace, to forbeare force, & to come peaceably into the towne of Edenbrough, & ioyne with them in searching out & pōnishing the murder of the Lord Darley her late husband: the reuēge whereof (they sayed) was the only cause of their assembly, and that in so doing her Highnes should finde them al there as ready to serue her to the shedding of their blood, as any in her owne armie there present.

The good Queene hearing this their humble suite, and thinking

king them to haue meant as plainly and honourably as she did, loth (if it might be auoided) to see such effusion of the blood of her subiectes, as was like otherwise to follow, and being armed with the secure testimonie of a guiltlesse conscience, hauing therewithall a minde no lesse desirouse in dede to see the horrible murder of her late moste deare husbande bowted out, and duely punnished, as so heinouse a crime deserued, then they in wordes pretended to haue, carrying with her the innocēcy of her owne cōscience, yeelded ouer soone to this their fraudulent sute: and so leauing her power, made repaire into the Towne of Edenborough, where when shee was arriued, expecting to haue bene in solemne and dutifull sort receiued by

by the Lordes according to the
laide Noble mannes woordes
and pretensed promises made
in all their names, her Bigh-
nesse to her greate amasinge,
founde all contrary. For her
aduersaries proudlye remai-
ning in her Graces Palace,
(whereof they hadde possessed
themselues) seeing nowe the
praie in their handes, which
they had so long hunted after,
and whereon they intended to
feede their bloudy and ambi-
tionse mindes, were so farre
from dooing that whiche they
had promised, and she expected,
that they caused her to alight
at a marchantes house, & there
rudely and homely vsing her
Grace al that daie, ỳ next night
made her priuily and spedely to
be cõueied in disguised apparel
to ỳ strõg Castel of Loghleuen:

where

where, within a few daies she was dispoiled of her Princely ornaments, and clothed with a course browne cassocke. And though the good Lady ful often remembred vnto them their faithful promises, & made most pitiful & earnest intercessiō, that shee might be brought before the Counsel, to haue her cause iustly examined: yet for al this could finde no maner fauour or iustice at their handes.

The said Earle Murrey then hauing brought his reckenings to this passe, presently without shame or farther cunctation, boldely vsurped and intruded himselfe into the gouernement of the Realme, for the which his ambitious and traiterous mind had so long and so greedily thirsted.

The Mucene seeing these thin-

thinges, and being therewith not a litle astonied, repented, though to late, her so quiet relenting to their sute, and ouerquicke crediting their feyned humble promises: when shee was in case wel enough by force to haue suppressed them. But this her doing gaue yet a moste cleare and notorious testimonie to the worlde of her innocent conscience, tender care of her subiects liues, and a plaine honourable mynd farre from crafte, and muche farther from such blooddy and cruel malice, as could geue consent to the murder of her husband, whome shee so dearely loued.

This her guiltlesse innocencie was yet more notoriously testified, when her Highnes being by the merciful prouidence

dence & mighty hand of God
deliuered out of the strong Ca-
stel of Loghleuen, enuironed
with a brode large water, fur-
nished with great garde and
nũbers of souldiers, & where-
the Lorde of the Castel himself
being Murreys halfe brother
did euery night kepe the keies
whẽ, I say, she being thus mir-
culously deliuered & offered by
diuers her owne subiects, to be
trustely cõueied into their quar-
ters, wher they would warrant
her Grace safely to remain & at
libertie to haue gone freely to
any forreyne Prince, at whose
hands she might well hope for
aide in her iust cause, 'agcyn
her vnnatural subiects, namely
in France, where, while she
was Queene, shee had by her
many vertues gayned great
loue and estimation, and when
the

the worthie Cardinall of Lorraine, and the reast of her Noble Uncles, bare vnder the yong King and his mother the chiefe swey in the gouernment of the Realme: did yet for the more notorious clearyng of her selfe, and notifiyng of her innocencie to the world, chuse voluntarily, to make her repaire into Englande, where shee knewe were the Earle of Lineux, and the Noble Princesse the Ladie Margarete, her late husbandes father and mother, who (she trusted) would not see the blood of their deare sonne vnreuenged: where also shee knewe were a worthie sorte of Noble menne, who woulde by all likelyhood afsoord their traueile in the indifferente examination of the cause, and thereupon finding

out the truth, would doe iuſtice to the guiltie for the murder of their Noble countrieman, and ſee the innocent both preſerued and reuenged. How could her Highnes geue a more notable teſtimony of her innocency and moſt guiltleſſe conſcience?

4. Fourthly, ſee how wonderfully God proſpered this her moſt noble and honeſt intent. For the Cõmiſſioners of England aſſigned and aſſembled at Yorke for the examination of that cauſe, who beeing before ſore incenſed againſt ỹ Queene by the craftie & malitious practiſes of her aduerſaries, brought with them ſo ſmall affection to her part, and had deuiſed and appointed the plat of their proceeding ſo litle to her aduantage, that Iames the Regent, and the reſt, that were aduerſe

parties

parties against her (who had not at al come out of Scotland to charge and accuse her, but vpon the assured hope and promise made vnto them by the English authoritie) should be first heard, and al their accusations at their desired length, opened & declared, before any of ỹ Cõmissioners of ỹ Queene of Scotlãds part should be heard, or suffred to answere any point or article of their accusatiõs, vntil ỹ same were fully & wholy giuẽ in all at lẽgth against her. Which accusations and presumptions that they the partie rebels minded to exhibit, beeing supposed to be matter sufficiẽt to occupie the Commissioners some daies, and to spende so much time, as might geue vnto the world a shewe and pretence of an indifferent proceeding, it

was then farther promised vn-
to them, and agreed betwene
the English Gouernours and
the Scottish Rebels, that their
accusations being once heard,
and enrolled, and a short word
or two suffred to be spoken for
a shew by the Queene of Scot-
lands Cõmissioners, that then
the Englishe Commissioners
should make some quarel, and
feine some cause to arise, to
breake of, & to make an ende of
al that Colloquie & Cõmission.
Which horrible confederacie of
partial proceding notwithstan-
ding, the said English Cõmissi-
oners were yet so moued with
that which fell out before them
to ỹ manifest prouf of ỹ Quenes
innocencie, & of the depe malice
of her accusers (so far frõ their
cõceiued opiniõ & expectatiõs)
that their former wrõg cõcepts
groun-

grounded vpon ỳ falſe rumors & other miſchieuous practiſes of her aduerſaries, beganne generally to ceaſe ſo farforth as they became to pitie her caſe, & made earneſt requeſt, ỳ ſhee might be reſtored to her Croune. And certaine Noble men (you know whome I may meane) hauing before ſpoken very broade and largely againſt her Highneſſe, did then cleane alter the courſe of their talke, beeing ſorie for that, which they vppon to light credit had ſaid before. Alſo the principal of the very Commiſſioners them ſelues, to witte, the Noble Duke of Norfolke a right high and excellent Prince, the chief Peere of the Realme of England, conceiued ſo great liking of her Graces innocencie & vertue, which fel out apparãt by that whiche was there vt-

tered in the course of the matter debated before his excellencie, and the rest of the Commissioners, that vppon his repoꝛte made thereof to the State and Counsell of Englande: and by the motion and aduise of sundry of the Counsell and Nobilitie, he beganne to bethinke himself of matching with her in mariage: and vpon good consideration of her wel proued honoꝛ & innocencie, desired at length nothing moꝛe, then that his hap might be so good, to match in mariage with so vertuouse a Ladie. And shoꝛtly after, loue farther kindling and increasing in his noble mind toward her, not blinded with affection to her beutie, whom to this houre hee neuer sawe, but inflamed with the iust loue and liking of her singular vertues, which he sawe

sawe there sufficiently testified: he became by meanes, not only a suter for himselfe, but diuerse others also of the chief Nobilitie of England, seing how honorable and conuenient to the parties themselues, and profitable to bothe Realmes (standing in termes as they doe) that matche were like to proue, became also in his Graces behalfe humble suters vnto her Highnes. whiche coulde not haue hapned, if vpon the examination and hearing of the cause, there had fallen out any suspect or probabilitie of truth, in the vile matters and obiections surmised against her by her aduersaries. For it is nothing likely, that his Grace abounding, as he doth, in wisedome, wealth, power, general loue of his countriemen, and in

maner with all other worldly felicitie, would seeke to matche in mariage with one, that had iustly remained in any suspicio of hauing murdered her former husband.

Thus doth the wonderful goodnes of God daily appeare toward the innocent wronged and oppressed, that humbly resigne them selues & their cause into his hands. For how could any man almost wish or deuise more manifest & notable things to happen for the notorious discouerie and testimonie of the Queenes innocencie in the fact wherwith she hath bene by her ambitious & ingratful enemies so slaunderously charged, then these, which haue since hapned?

But nowe, sith we see her Highnes so fully cleared, it shal not be amisse, to note, what vehement

hemēt presumptions, nay what open prouffes and cleare argumentes haue on the other side fallen out in the course & handling of these matters, against the accusers, to conuince euen themselues of guilt, in conspiring, procuring & compassing that cruel murder, whereof they thought to auert the suspicion from themselues, by laying the same to the charge of the innocent Queene.

Certain vehemēt presumptions with most cleare and euident proufs, that th'accusers of the Queene, namely the Earle of Murrey and certein other of the chief of his Confederats, were the deuisers, procurers, and some of them the very executioners of the murder of the Lord Darley.

CAPVT. 5.

AS the Earle of Murrey & his complices, could neuer to this daie by any threat, promisse of pardon, fauour and reward, or other practises (whereof it is knowen he vsed many) procure any one, not so muche as a condemned person, directly to charge or accuse ẏ Queene of consenting, or so muche as any foreknowledge of ẏ murder: so without any such practice, God hath of his iustice so appointed, that diuerse persons at sundry times & places haue voluntarily and of their owne knowledge constantly charged the Erle Murrey and other his confederates therwith.

But before I come to that pointe, I will reduce to you in some

some order, diuers other things that went before: which when you haue redde, and aduisedly considered the same, you shall (I doubt not) easily be induced to thinke, that those direct testimonies succeeding against Murrey and the rest of his confederats, were like inough to be true, & so are in dede founde to be, and daily more and more confirmed by Time the mother of Truth. It shal not be impertinent therfore in this place somewhat to note the causes, that moued the Earle of Murrey to seeke and procure ỹ death of the Lord Darley.

The first and original cause was the greate and exceeding ambition, which appered wholy to possesse the lewd minde of the said Murrey, aspiring greedily to the Croune & gouerne-

kment of that Realme: of which his inordinate ambition if any man doubt, let him first know, that he was so far blinded therwith, that he was not ashamed to make open and direct suite to the Queene in the time of her first widowhood, to intaile the Crowne of Scotlande to him, (though he were illegitimate and uncapeable therof) & to the blood & name of the Stewards, dissuading her in all he might, from all maner of mariage.

Which things are wel knowen to most of the Nobilitie of that Realme. But when he saw that deuise would not take place, for that the Queene being yong, & hauing no childe, desirouse (as was both natural & dutiful for the quiet of the Realm) to leaue an heire of her owne bodie to reigne after her, if so it should

please

pleaſe God, was determined to matche herſelf in mariage with the ſaied Lord Darley, beeing a goodly yong Prince, deſcended (as her ſelfe alſo was) of the Royall blood of the aunciente Kings bothe of Englande and Scotland, and next after herſelf & his mother, the next Heire in apparance to the Croune of England: Murrey ſeeing this matche to fall out very ill for his purpoſe, and the woorſe, bycauſe ſuch a yong and beautifull couple, were not like to be long without childzen, he firſte determined and practiſed to haue killed both the ſaid Lorde Darley and his Father, and to haue impriſoned the Queene in Lochleuen, and himſelfe to vſurpe the regiment of the Realme, as ſynce hee did.

But the mariage being solẽnised, before he could conueniently execute that his diuelish intente, and the same (as God would haue it) being disclosed: so greate was his malice and ambition, that not being hable any longer to conteine or dissemble the same, he then brake forth into open rebellió, shewing him selfe with his cõplices in armes against the Quene his Soueraigne & his most louing & bountiful sister, by whose liberalitie he might dispend well xxvj. thousand pounds by yere after the rate of their mony, and next vnto herselfe ruled & commaunded the whole Realme.

And to winne the moo to his faction, tooke holde and occasion of the reuocacion shee had made of the Actes and Alienacions (of things perteining to the

ȳ Croune) made in her minoritie (which al Princes of Scotland may iustly doe, when, or before they come to the age of fiue and twentie yeares) pretēding that she meant to plucke from euery man al the possessions of the Church and Croune that he and the rest of the Nobilitie hadde gotten into their handes: whiche amounted to more then two partes of three, of the reuennes of the whole Churche and Croune of Scotland.

But his forces beeing by her highnes loyal subiects sone broken, he fled into England, wher while he remained, he busily solicited and earnestly sued for aide against his Soueraigne.

Yet during the time of his remaining there, twoo things did he finely cumpasse: the one

was

was his owne pardonne at the Quenes hands by the intreatie of suche frends as he found in England, ẏ other the murder of Danid the Quenes Secretarie, wherof by his letters he gaue a plat so certaine of ẏ cõfederats yet liuing, & so earnestly solicited ẏ same, that it was executed in such horrible sort, as ẏ world knoweth, in ẏ Queenes owne presence, at what time shee being great with child, labouring all shee coulde by intreatie, to saue his life, had a charged pistolet bent against her, and was threatened, it shoulde be presently shotte of at her, if shee woulde not quiet her selfe. Whiche barbarouse facte vsed towards her, in the case shee was in, gaue vnto Murrey a speciall hope, that either shee, or her childe, or bothe, by that sodaine

ſodaine fright and feare ſhould periſh and miſcarie.

This Secretare beeing thus diſpatched, whoſe wiſedome and fidelitie, was no ſmall lette to their deſigne mentes, Murrey the verye next daie euen at his cue (as they ſaie) for aſſiſting of his Confederates if neede were, entered into Scotlande, and preſented him ſelfe with as ſmoothe a countenance in the Queenes preſence (of whome hee was gratiouſely pardoned) as though he hadde neither beene of counſell of that freſhe ſlaughter of the Secretarie, nor of any other traiterouſe attemptes againſt her Highneſſe (ſuche was her noble, curteouſe and mercifull nature) kindely welcommed and louingly receiued him againe, freely

freely remitting all that was past.

Which when the Lord Darley saw, he much misliked, and repined thereat, fearing that he would be (as afterwarde he was in dede) reuenged vppon him: bycause he finding by the daunger, which both the Queene and him selfe stood in at the furioule murder of Dauid, that there was a farther fetch in the matter, then the bringing of the Croune and gouernement to him (which in secrete conference & practice with him, was their pretense) did not onely forthwith reconcile himselfe to the Queene, but disclosed to her Highnesse, all the confederats in that conspiracie, whereof he confessed the said Murrey to be the head and principal.

Therefore doubting, that when

when Murrey shoulde heare of this, he would also seeke vpon his person a bluddy reuenge, as he had trained him in bloud before: he determined, to preuent the said Earle, and to kil him first. which his determination he opened to the Mueene, and though earnestly shee dissuaded him from it: yet through feruent feare of his owne life, and want of experience, vndiscreetely disclosed it to so many, that it came at the last to Murreys eares.

But he hauing a much more craftie head, then ỳ yong Lord Darley had, dissembling that he had any intelligence hereof, began then to hasten as muche as he could, the dispatche of the said Lord Darley, whereof he had before laied the plat with his confederates, but chiefely

with

with ꝑ Earle Bothwel, whome at his departure from the court towarde France (for the subtil for to abuse the worlde would him selfe be out of the Realme when his deuises shoulde be executed) he had put in trust as his singular and moste especial and secrete friende, with the whole order of that affaire, promising him (in rewarde of his paines to be taken in the dispatche of the Lorde Darley) his counsell and furtherance in all he coulde, to marie with the Queene: wherein the craftie Fore foresawe and intended, as hath synce appeared, the distruction both of the Queene and him, and thereby an open way for himselfe to atteine the goale of the regiment of that Realme, which synce he hath vsurped.

Here

Here you see a concurrence of two causes that mooued Murrey, to contriue the murder of the Lord Darley. First, an ambitiouse hope, by taking him away, to atteine with muche more ease, the Crounc, which was the marke he shot at: the other, a feare that he had to be himselfe murdered by the said Lord Darley, if he did not find some meane to preuent him.

Now remaineth it to be proued, that as Murrey was moued by these apparant causes, to procure this murder: so in dede he was the procurer of the same.

For proufe wherof: first it is to be knowen, that he to auoid from himself the open suspicion & slaunder therof, departing frō the Courte about xvj. houres before the murder committed,

said

saied to the Lord Harris: This night, eare morning, the Lorde Darley shal lose his life. Which woordes the said Lord Harris, beiug of suche honour and credit, as is well knowen, did at sundry times, auow openly to the Earle Murreys face, and is yet lining ready to auow the same.

2. Secondly, Murrey before his departure out of Scotland for France, had contriued, ẏ his factiō shuld in his absense procure the acquital of Bothwel, & after to marie with the innocēt Queene. And diuers of the faction had by their owne hande writing bounde them selues to obey and assist Bothwel against any that shoulde prosecute him for the murder committed.

3. Thirdly, the said Murrey by his ernest sute obteined the re-

turne

turne of some of his principall confederates, then banished into England for the slaughter of the Secretarie: without whose assistence, for their greate courage and witte to execute, his practises went but lamely forward.

Fourthly, it is wel knowen, that the said Murrey, and other the confederates, had many secret meetings at the Castell of Cragmiller, about the contriuing and compassing of the said murder: at whiche place the same was fully concluded, as hath beu since confessed.

Fiftly, the said Earle Murrey, nor any of the rest, would not gene to the Quene any admonition or knowledge, that ye Earle Bothwell was any doer in the death of her husband, till by the great sute, singuler com-

mendas

mendation of the saied Earle Bothwel, & other mischieuous practises mingled with pretensed humilitie and with couert terrour, they had persuaded and procured her Highnes to marie him.

Then, when it was for her to late, and for them inmpe in the nicke, they sodeinly with open mouth blased abrode and published, that the Earle Bothwel (forsooth) with whom the Queene had maried, was the principal murtherer of the Lord Darley, whose death it came now sodeinly vpon them, and much touched their honour (as they said) to see reuenged. And therevpon presently brake they forth againe into armes against their Queene, whome when by feined submission and false promisses (as hath bene

shewed

shewed before) they had fraudulently gotten into their handes, and vnnaturally cast into prison in Lochlenen (where the lewed mother and bastard brother of the said Murrey were dwelling): they litle then cared for pursuing or hurting the Earle Bothwell. For they permitted him to remaine there quietly in the Countrey certaine monethes after, and to passe safely whither he would, according to their former promisse made vnto him in their names by a Noble manne yet lining: who, when he was sent from Edenborough to the Queenes Campe, to persuade her Maiestie, to laye armes aparte, and peaceably to enter Edenborough, as is before remembred, tooke the Earle Bothwell by the hande.

and drawing him aside, aduised him, to departe for a time, faithfully promising him, that noman should pursue or folow him.

6. Sixtly, Jhon Hepborne the Earle Bothwelles man (who with certaine others that had in deede bene presente at the murder, was executed, for a face of iustice, and to remoue suspicion from the principals) said and constantly affirmed at his death in the presence of fiue thousand persons and mo, that (as he should answere before God) the Earle Murrey, and certeine others, whom he then and there named, were the principals and chiefe procurers of the said murder, and that so the Earle Bothwell his Maister had often told him in secret. The same in effect was affirmed

med by Jhon Hay of Talow, Powrie, Dugglish and Parris at the time of their deathes, as hath bene shewed before.

Lastly, there was a solemne Indenture Octopartite made and passed, betweene the said Earle Murrey and the reast of the Conspirators, of mutuall couenant and promisse vppon their faith and honour, vniformely to procede in their said cõfederacie: that which of them soeuer should first cumpasse opportunitie, should kill the said Lord Darley, and in al euents touching thesame should iointly assist and defend eche other. Of which Indenture one part signed & scaled with the handes and seales of the Earle Murrey and the reast of the Conspirators, hath since come to the Queenes handes, and was 7.

shewed to the English Commissioners.

Now see how wonderfully God hath wrought herein. If suche vehement presumptions as are before remembred, could be slightly past ouer, as things that rather make likely, then clearly proue true ẏ which is gathered therof: yet is it not to be mistrusted, but so many witnesses directly acculinge Murrey & his complices, at the houre of their death, Murreys foretelling the night when the Lord Darley shoulde be killed, the flatte and weightie testimonie of the Noble Lord Harris yet liuing, and lastly the Indenture of that traiterous conspiracie, signed and sealed with the knowen hand and seale of the Lord Murrey and his Confederates, will fully satisfie all

men

men ẏ haue their commō sense, and geue them matter inough clerely to see, who were the procurers of that horrible murder, whereof the guiltie malefactours haue so vnnaturally slandered their good and guiltlesse Queene.

I coulde here touche diuerse points by the way, to witte, the inualiditie of the Accusers for the iust and lawful exceptions, that the Queene mighte take against euery of them by the Law, which geueth to the simplest defendant that may be, the benefit and aduantage of lawful exceptions, not only against the accuser, but against the witnesse & Iudge. All which three parts, that is to saie, to be accusers, witnesses, and Iudges also, they themselues haue taken vppon them in this Tragedie.

C. Qui accusat non potest Iniquũ Et L. fin. L. Qui accusat. ff. de accusat.

And farther, if the Queene had bene guiltie, as shee was not: yet ought she not by them to haue bene deposed, no more then Dauid was, when he had committed bothe murder and adulterie, or numbers of other Kinges and Princes in the like cases.

Further, that subiects ought not for any cause, of their owne priuate authoritie, to lay violent handes on their annointed Prince. That their maner of proceeding hauing bene altogether vnhoneſt, and contrarie to the lawe of God and man, hath made their doing euil, vniuſt and impious, Quia forma dat eſſe rei: with diuers other ſuch matters, which of purpoſe I omitte, as not neceſſarie in this caſe, where the principall is ſo fully anſweared, as the

Queene

Queene or her frindes neede not to flee to the aduantage of those helpes.

Praised be God, ẏ truth hath yeelded such abundant & notorious prouffes of her innocencie, & their guilt, that her Highnes may, hath from the begynning, & yet doth offer to stande and ioine issue with her accusers, vpon the principal point by them most falsly and impudently laid to her charge.

A Capitulation of the Actes and partes of this Tragedie hitherto, without producing al the Actors, diuers of whose names are for good respectes to be suppressed.

CAP. 4

THis Lord James, bastard brother to ẏ Quene of Scotland, & by her natural goodnes

nammed to the Earledome of Murrey, to possessions & liuelyhod of six and twentie thousand poundes by the yeare, to the whole gouernement and rule of the Realme next to her selfe (as hath bene shewed before) being yet pricked forward with an vngrate and ambitious minde, with the lewed inclination he drew by kinde out of his vnchast mother, and by the instigation of the Diuell, that would not suffer him to go on in the Ecclesiastical and religious life, wherein he was once entred, and in some degrees professed, determined by one meane or other, to make him selfe King of that Realme.

Toward the bringing of which his designment to effect, he first practised, to staye the Queene from mariage, and to entaile

entaile the Croune to him & to the name of the Stewardes. Which deuise not succeeding to his fansie, he determined, to interrupt her mariage with the Lord Darley (whereof he saw her resolued) by procuring the murder both of him & the Earle of Lineux his father. But God preserving them, the mariage was solemnized & consummate.

Then, seeing no waye so likely to aduaunce the desired successe of his wicked enterprise, as to deuise some meane, to breede debate and misliking betwene the Queene and her husband: he practised, to put into the head of the said Lord Darley a greate desire which he and others of the Nobilitie hadde, to see the Croune sette on his headde, for that they wisshed (said he) rather

to be gouerned by a man, then altogether by a woman, declaring vnto him, that many of them did merualle, that there appeared in her so litle regard to his Lordship, as hauing worthely made him her husband, shee would yet so vnworthely suffer him to remaine in place of a subiect: or so litle magnanimitie in him, that giuing all other waies sufficient shew and testimonie of a noble courage, he could so meekely beare that dishonour, wherof yet he could not muche impute the fault to the Queene (who seemed in her very louing vse towards him otherwayes, to reuerence and regarde the Nobilitie of his Roial blood and excellent gifts of nature worthy in dede of any Monarchie) as to the enuious & spitefull secret working and per-

perſuaſion of Dauid her Secretarie, a craftie fellow, and as Murrey ſaid, neither frind to his Lordſhip, nor to any of the Nobilitie.

The yong Prince hearing this, and lacking in deede no courage or greatnes of minde, but ſome ripenes of iudgement (for want of yeares and experience) to diſcerne whereto this tale and deuiſe tended, beeing eaſily circumuented by this old craftie fox, and long practiſed traitour, gaue ſone an inclining eare to this his ſmooth talke, whiche ſhewed outwardly, a greate eſtimation of the ſaied Lord Darleys perſon and vertue, with a louing deſire of his aduancement.

Wherfore to make ſhort, this yong Lord hauing the ſame by diuers meanes inculcated into his

his head, sometime by scornefull reproches vttered to him by the way of mirth, of his to base suffering such contempt, and sometime by subtil persuasions and earnest instigations of sundrie the Confederates: in the ende, the vnfortunate yong Lorde was brought first to vse stragenes toward the Queene, and sone after to ioyne with ỳ Confederates that were wroughte by Murrey to become the butcherly murderers of this poore faithfull Secretarie, in whose bodie the saied Lorde Darleys owne dagger was founde sticking emong a number of other deadly woundes, wherwith he was there miserably stabbed, in the very presence of the Quene his Maistres, being great with her first and onely childe, and

indeuouring herselfe by intreatie, and otherwise (as she was hable) to saue him, til by a charged Pistolet bent towars her (as was shewed before) sher was also put in fear of her life, and violently thrust, not into her owne priuie chamber, but into an other, with onely one of her Gentlewomen to waite vpon her.

Murreys enterprise beeing thus farre aduanced, hee thought (this stumbling blocke of the wise and faithfull Secretarie being remoued, and therwithal so notable a cause of vnkindenesse cast betweene the Queene and the saied Lorde Darley) he needed not muche to doubte, but that he should wel find the meanes, shortly to bring to passe, that the saied

Lord

Lord Darley being now vnsetled in blud, should be wrought for geine of the Croune (which seemed offred vnto him) to dispatche also the Queene her self, or at the least, to geue his consent to the destroiyng of her.

But God otherwise disposed. For this Noble yong Gentleman, by the secrete instinct of nature, and of Princely minde he drew with the Royal blood of his Noble Mother, beganne euen foorthwith to repent, and to abhorre the foule fact he had committed. And therevppon finding his own fault, and sore ashamed thereof, he presently entred into the chamber, where the desolate Queene kneeled in feare of her life, moorning his ingratitude, with the losse of her old faithful seruant the Secretarie, and in humble and

moſte feruente praier to God, to defend and preſerue her and the infant in her wombe, from the cruell handes of thoſe traitours, whoſe bloudy daggers ſhe looked preſently to feele alſo in her owne bodie.

When he, being touched with remorſe and with the grace of God (obteined, as it may wel be thought, with the pearcing praier & abundant teares there poured foorth by that good and vertuous Ladie) entred into the chamber: he preſently fell doune on his knees before her Highnes, aſking mercie and pardon for the great errours he had committed, with ſufficient ſhew, ẏ he was now hartily ſorie therefore, & gaue very faithfull aſſurance, that he woulde from thencefoorth, vnfeinedly be to her Highnes ſuch, as du-

tie and

tie and her exceeding kindenes and demerits toward him had iustly bound him.

To make shorte, the good Queene, seeing this notable chaunge so sodainly to happen somewhat beyond her expectation: first most humbly thanked God (whome shee saw to bee the onely Author thereof) then louingly imbracing her sorowful husband, shee not onely pardoned sweerly all his former vnkindenesse, and grieuouse offences committed against her: but seeing (better then he did) the present daunger wherein they bothe stoode, shee forthwith by her excellente wisedome deuised and put in execution suche politike meane, as wherewith shee saued that nighte both him and her selfe by escaping away in disguised

disguised apparrel.

The Earle of Murrey seeing then (contrarie to his hope) this reconciliation betweene the Queene and the Lorde Darley: imagined, as it followed, that all his traiterouse practises woulde be discouered to the Queene, and resolued with him selfe, that now there remained no way for his owne safetie, and to aduaunce the desired ende of his traiterous purpose, but to make shorte woorke, and to gette the saied Lorde Darley to be dispatched out of the waie. And that being done, he doubted not, by one deuise or an other, to make a hande also with the desolate Quene, or at the least to get her by some good colour deposed, & himself placed in the Roial seate & gouernemēt of that Realme.

This

This mischeuous deuise how he compassed & atchcued euen to his minde, the world hath seene, and the processe of this discourse hath before opened. I wil therefore (desiring herein to be as short as I may) forbeare the repeating thereof againe in this place, and proceede to the nexte Acte of this Tragedie.

Yet one thing farther may I not omitte to shew, what faith and fidelitie was in this Traitor Murrey: who seemed now to haue cast away al shame, al regard, not onely to God and his Prince, but also of his own honour, fame and credit. For after all things brought to the termes you see, euen as he would haue it: yet could he not by any meanes bringe these thinges to suche passe, but that

diuers

diuers yet of the principal Nobilitie of Scotland fauored the Queene, & remained her faithfull and loyall subiectes, soliciting daily by all meanes they could (for by force they were not hable) to compound these greate garboiles and troubles, and to procure by some treatie, the deliuery and reducing of their Queene, whome bysides their duetie of allegeance, they singulerly loued and honoured for her liberalitie, clemencie, wisedome, and other singuler vertues.

They hauing therefore with earnest solicitation procured, that Murrey was at the last contente to come to a parlee with them, and to gene them safeconduct (which he did, with such other assurance by promise confirmed by oth and writing,

of free passing and repassing with safetie, as they thought sufficient, and so might, if there had ben least in him any honor, honestie, feare of God, or shame of the world) behold, euen in the midst of their talke and conference aboute pacification of their great troubles, he caused violent handes to be sodainely laied on the Duke of Chastleroy, the moste Noble and principall Peere of that Realme: and on that graue, stoute, and faithfull Noble man the Lorde Harris, and cast them bothe into close and straight prison, contrarie to his promise, faith, safeconduct, and assurance geuen vnto them.

In Cronograp. Pontaci Burdeg.

What Turke would so haue vsed himselfe? How euidently did this part shew, that he was rather of a Punike, then of a Chri-

Christian faith? Howe truely saith the wiseman? Impius, cùm in profundum venerit, contemnit: sed sequitur eum ignominia & opprobrium. The wicked man, when he is come to ỹ bottome of iniquitie, becõmeth impudẽt: but shame & reproch followeth him. Whiche you shall soone see verified in this man, who seined now to thinke himselfe in such securitie, as he contemned al honest respects, conscience, honour, honestie, faith, feare of God or any other thing that good men vse to regard in al their actions. Proverbior. 18.

This bastard Earle hauing now by these blouddy & faithlesse steps atteined to ỹ absolute regiment of ỹ Realme of Scotland, by the murder of Dauid the Secretarie, of that goodly yong Prince the Lord Darley,

the traiterouſe impriſoning of the Queene his Soueraigne, the ſhameful ſlandering of her, and the violente pulling from her, and ſealing into his bloudy clawes not only all her iewels and treaſours, but her deere childe alſo and only comforte, now remaining to take his turne the ſame waie his father was ſent, ere he ſhould grow vp to any yeares and diſcretion to take notice of theſe thinges: it remained, that God (hauing for ſuche cauſes, as to his prouidence were beſt knowen, permitted this wicked man, beeing leaſt ouer to his owne luſtes, thus farre to proceede in his miſchiefe) would now both by ſhew of his mercie and iuſtice, geue matter to the fourth Act of this Tragedy.

He therefore caſting doune

from

from his high heauēly Throne a pitiful eye, and enclining his mercifull eare to the ruefull lamentations of this wofull, innocent, and desolate Ladie crieyng to him daie and nighte for some comfort & redresse of these so many & so intolerable wrōgs done vnto her, did first of his Diuine mercie and compassion miraculously deliuer this pretiouse Jewell, this Noble and innocent Quene, out of ỹ strongest prison of Scotlād, throughly furnished with numbers of souldiers, enuironned with large deepe waters, and garded by the very brother of this traitour Murrey, with the assistence and lewd aduise of their dishonest mother.

This beeing done by Gods woonderfull prouidence, the Queene tendering not so much

the

the recouerie of her Crowne, as
her honour and fame, by that
wretched Murrey & his Com-
plices so shamefully touched,
and vniustly impaired with
many, that knew no more of
these deepe practises, then that
that was openly geuē forth (to
her slaunder) by the said Mur-
rey and his fautors, and now
estsones pursued by the saied
Murrey by violence and force
of armed men to haue ben mur-
dered in open field, if by the
slaughter and death of many
her faithfull subiectes her owne
life had not bene redeemed: shee
laying aside al other respectes,
tooke her waie into England,
where the Father and Mother
of her murdered husbād dwelt,
by whose meanes and good as-
sistence shee nothing doubted,
but to get this foule matter in-

diffe-

differently examined, the truth to be boulted out, and thereby her innocencie made cleere to the woꝛld, by the iuſt reuenge that the Noble menne of that Realme, aſſiſted with her owne loyall ſubiectes in Scotlande, would take vpon thoſe her rebels and moſt vnnaturall murderers of her deere huſband.

But when her Highneſſe comming with this honoꝛable intent, was by Gods guiding ſafely arriued in England: behold, ſhe being at her firſt landing gẽtly receiued, was (alas) ſoone after apprehended, and after a ſoꝛte, caſt there againe into priſon. So greate was the ſolicitation of her Aduerſaries, and ſo great an impreſſion had the ſlaunderous bruits and traiterous practiſes of the ſaid Murrey and his friendes

made there in the mindes not onely of the Noble men, but almoste of all others generally.

Howbeit God that knew the secrets of al, after this notorious shewe of his merciful compassion by the miraculouse deliuerie of this innocent Ladie out of the handes of her greatest ennemies, that intended her death, into a more mild prison, where shee was safe from suche blooddy attemptes (whiche shee did with reason fearefully expecte in the other euery houre) permitted Satan sone after to paie certaine the principal instruments and aduãcers of this his seruice with their due deserued hire.

For first he suffered a spirit of phrenesie to enter into ỹ person of that Noble yong Prince the Earle of Arrane eldest sonne to the Duke of Chastleroy: which

Earle

Erle of Arrane being in Frãce of great estimatiõ for his goodly person, wit, courage, and nobilitie, and hauing there great charge, credit, and very honourable interteinement, was by this traitour Murrey, and an Embassador then liggier there (whom I wil forbear to name) so finely practised with (being promised, ẏ if he would ioyne with Murrey in these attẽpts, he should haue in England & Scotland dubble the interteinment he had there, and perhaps marie with ẏ best in England, whereof they gaue him diuerse waies no small shewe of great likelihod) ẏ he vnwisely condescending to their lewd coũsel & craftie persuasions, least the very honourable estate and interteinment that he had in France, & becomming vpõ these hopes one of Murreys confederates,

repaired into Scotland, and
sone after into England. But
finding in time, that things fel
not out to the answering of his
hope, and that he failed both of
the wife and double intertein-
ment that was promised him:
he fel byside him selfe, or rather
starke mad, and so lyuing cer-
taine yeares, at the last he died
in plaine Lunasie, and in very
miserable case.

An other great man yet li-
uing, a principall member of
this conspiracie, is displaced of
the regimēt (which, next Mur-
trey, he looked for) by such as he
thought had fauoured him and
his doings.

But yet more notable was
the paiment, that by Gods suf-
ferance, the Deuill gaue of de-
serued hire to his principal ser-
uant the Earle himselfe. For he
being

being nowe in his chiefe pride, enioying al his desires, & thinking himselfe to haue made so sure with all his Aduersaries, that he needed not to feare by them any disturbance of his greate felicitie, was sodainely striken, as he rode in the midst of his Gard, with two or three pellets that were at once shot at him by a Gentleman (no Papist, as the world knoweth) to whome he had in his late gouernment done in priuate very great and insolente iniuries. And with the blow falling presently from his horse, sone after hee gaue vp his sinfull ghoste amidde his tyrannical gouernment of that Realme in al causes both spirituall and temporal, whervnto he was climmed by suche meanes, as ye haue heard before.

Herevppon the Nobilitie there, are fallen also emong themselues to suche dissention, & al the subiects to such a lawlesse loosenes (while eche man attending chiefely to ỹ increace of his faction, malefactours are rather cherished and borne out in all their enormouse factes, then any one iustly punnished and brideled by due course of law) as is like shortly by confusion to breede the vtter ruine of that Realme.

For such is the natural agreement betwene the head and the members, and suche the secrete instinct betwene the true lawful Prince, and the multitude of loyall subiectes, as while their true and natural head is detcined from them, & they neither wil, nor can in reason, yeeld to the regimente of any vsurper,

per, there is not to be hoped or looked for any other, then such invasions as they have already tasted, and finally in shorte space a final ruine and desolation of the whole Realme of Scotland.

Beholde herein the merueilous iustice of God, not only in notorious permitting the iust punnishment by speedy death of the chiefe particular Authors in this to true a Tragedie: but in suffering these plagues to light also on ỹ whole Realme, where suche foule attemptes could find not only free course, but abettors also and partetakers in suche disloyall enterprises and wicked proceedings.

Of whiche their desolation and plagues, when they haue struggled al they can one

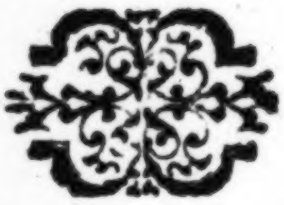
againſt an other, yet can they not hope for any other ſtaie, til thei uniting themſelues againe in the feare of God and mutual accord, doe by al ỹ good meanes they poſſibly may, ſeeke to be reconciled in al humble, dutiful and unfeined ſort, to their lawful, natural, and moſt gratiouſe Queene: and to procure the reducing and reſtoring of her to her libertie, honour, and kingdome, wherof by the very lewd practiſes before laid foorth and wel knowen to the worlde, her Highnes hath ben, and preſently is, ſo wrongfully depriued.

And now, good Coſine, hauing accomplished your deſire, & alſo ſatiſfied mine owne dutie and conſcience in reuealing unto you the truth of theſe matters, for ſo farreforth as I take on me to saie, forasmuche as

often-

öftentimes it happeneth, that such a priuate cõference groweth in time to bee made more common, and coniecturing by the maner of your earnest and curiouse demaunde, to haue it with al such circumstances and particulars, as I could learne, that your meaning mighte bee (perhappes) in time to make it more publike & common to the worlde, then yet you would be acknowen of to mee: and considering, that thereby it should be by all likelyhode moste conuersant with the Nobilitie and Gentlemen of this Nation of Scotlande: I haue therefore thought it conuenient, vnto the ende of this Letter or discourse to adde these few wordes, as a briefe Exhortation vnto them, vnto whom for many respects I wish wel, and haue cõpassion

of their error, and do not doubt (for the good natures that I knowe to bee in sundry of the chiefe of them) but that they will bothe take it well, and in time as they may, apply themselues thereunto. And thus I bid you right hartily farewel.



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AN

AN EXHORTATION TO those Noblemen of Scotland, that remaine yet maintainers and defenders of the vnnatural and dishonorable practiſes againſt the Queene.

AND now, my Lordes of the Realme of Scotland, you that haue vnaduiſedly ſuffered your ſelues to be made the inſtrumentes & ioint-workers of theſe miſchiefes by the craftie perſuaſions of their baſtard Earle, and are yet by other corrupte & indirect meanes mou-

inducted to perſiſt and continue in the maintenance and defence of the ſame: to you I wil now be bold for a few wordes to direct my ſpeache.

If the iuſt conſideration of the ſubtill perſuaſions and deceitfull pretenſes made vnto you from time to time by the ſaid Earle Murrey, who neuer opened vnto you the fine, end, nor marke of his traiterouſe ambitiouſe minde, that aſpired to vſurpe the Croune of that Realme, as more then manifeſtly appeared before he died: if thoſe falſe guiles, I ſaie, now ſo euident in al your eies, ſuffiſe not to reſolue you of the vnlefulnes of your procedings paſt in proſecuting of this enterpriſe, and now at length to deſiſt therefro: yet let the iuſt end and the ſodaine feareful fal of

that

that Earle, in the middeſt and height of his pride, be vnto you al a ſpectacle and an example of Gods terrible iuſtice, and righteous reuenge, that neuer faileth at one time or other to fall vpon the Authors and wookers of ſo horrible and monſtruouſe attemptes, how long ſoeuer they bee ſometimes differred and delayed.

Conſider (I beſeeche you) more aduiſedly then you haue done, the very nature and qualitie of theſe your actions and attempts: and way how farre they paſſe the limites of all honour in your ſelues, howe they exceede the boundes of all duetie to God, to your Prince, and to your Countrey, & how they ſurmount the cumpaſſe of al reaſon, ciuilitie, and humaine nature in the iudgement of the

whole

whole worlde.

And when you haue considerately bethought your liues vppon these your errors, and haue seene howe merueilously you haue bene abused by that false Traitour, first to enter, and since to walke and wade forwarde in that lothesome and odiouse bypath of vndutifull disobedience, and vnnaturall treasons: you are not (I trust) so vtterly graceless, nor so deepely drowned in the dongeon of vnsensible darkenesse, but that some remorse you shal feele, and motions of repentance, for your so great ouersightes both toward God and your Prince. And let your passed experience of your trauaile and turmoile so many yeares continued, teache and

assure

assure you, that the farder you proceede in this vile course, the more shal you still finde of that, which you haue hitherto founde. That is to saie, that bothe your selues, and your whole naturall Countrey, by this your fault, shal sinke daily deeper and deeper, as it were, into a bottomlesse Gogmyre of infamouse calamities to horrible to bee heard of.

Out of which to raise and recouer your selues and your Countrey, there is none other waie leaft you, but againe to vntwist the threde, that your selues haue holpen to spinne, beginning firste with vnfeined contrition, and calling to God for mercie and forgeuenes for these your greate outrages, and acknoweledging withall,

(as

(as the truth is in deede) that synce you first fel from him, and forsooke the true faith of your noble Progenitors (which for fleshly libertie and couetousnes of the Church goods you first abandoned) that by this spirituall blindnes wilfully imbraced, you had neuer synce ỹ grace to esteeme Ciuil iustice, nor to obserue the common obedience that al subiects, both Christian, and Ethnical are borne in, and bound vnto.

And secondly, with al humilitie and faithfull meaning, to confesse your errours & faultes vnto the Queenes Maiestie your Soueraigne, and to craue for the same her gratious pardon, with promise and performance, by your faithfull vttermoste seruice in her obedience, euen to the shedding of your

bloods

bloods at her commaundemẽt, to redubbe and acquite to your powers, your offences past.

And if any respect of pride, wilfulnesse, corruption by reward, or vnlauful oth or promise shal withholde you yet any longer from the same, bysides ẏ ruine that you see your Countrey suffereth, the weakening and consumption of your Nobilitie & people, the lying waste and vnoccupying of your natural soil, the extinguishment of iustice, & the vnbrideled educatiõ of your youth in al vnlefull libertie and mischiefe: bysides all these (I saie) beholde with what eyes the whole world abrode, Christen and Heathen, must looke vpon you: vpon your selues, I saie, ẏ are the contriuers thereof, & what the present tongues and pennes of all sortes of men must

muſt faie of the ſame.

1. Is there any one of your ſelues (admitte that he be willingly blind) yet ſo vnſenſible, that he palpably feeleth not the inextricable Labyrinth & confuſion, into whiche your ſelues are entered, and haue led your whole Nation after you.

2. Hath any of you ſo farre ſtripped your ſelues from the nature of man, that you feele nothing of the ſlaughter and murder of ſo many of your Countrimen, ſeruants, friends, & kinſfolke, as in theſe v. yeares haue periſhed emong you?

3. Can any of you denie, but that ſince your renouncing of your dutifull obedience vnto your iuſt Soueraigne, in which you were borne (neither with ſo many blooddy battailes as haue ſince bene fought for the ſame,

ſame, neither with ſo many friendly treaties and amicable meetings, as emong your ſelues hans bene made for ending of this controuerſie, neither yet with any counſel or authoritie (forein or domeſtical) you could neuer yet reduce your ſelues to accorde vpon any other Prince or fourme of Regimente, that could continue ſix moneths together, without beeing diſſolued by ſome of your ſelues that were parties vnto it?

Is there any emong you ſo voide of honour, ſo deſtitute of ciuilitie, or growen ſo barbarouſe, that he feeleth no ſhame of the Mooriſh vnfaithfulnes, & daily violation of euery mans promiſe & faith geuen to other, euen emong your ſelues, ſo farforth, that therby in effect is taken away al mutual comforte, 4.

that

that mans nature taketh in conuersing friendly one with another?

5. Is al natural loue so extincted in you, that you feele no paine of the many incursions and forreine forces, of the burnings, wastes and slaughters, that by the handes of your pretended friendes (Enemies in dede) haue ben of late committed emong you?

6. Or is there no sparke of wisedome or common reason left in you, that might shew you, what must be ẏ ineuitable end of this intestine dissension & ciuil discord emong your selues: wherin whosoeuer winneth, onely Scottish blood is shed, and the Realme of Scotland looseth, to ẏ final extirpatiõ of your selues and your Families for euer?

If none of all these doe yet suffise,

ſuffiſe, to perſuade you to retire in time from theſe your inſolencies: then behold, I beſeech you, how manifeſtly to the eies of al the world the wiſedome of God confoundeth your practiſes, and his merciful prouidēce conuinceth your follie. For, ſee you not, that euen now amids theſe your vnlauful labors to re notice your obedience, & whiles you the natural ſubiects of her Maieſtie haue done your vttermoſt, and yet doe ſtil turmoile (without pretenſe of iuſt cauſe) to depoſe and depriue your vndoubted Soueraign, euē now, I ſaie, whiles you are warmeſt in working of this, behold, the Royal Nobilitie and people of England, in nūber farre aboue you, and your equalles at leaſt (in euery degree) bothe in liuing, in parentage, and in al other

other gifts of God and of nature, and (who might in comparison of you be accõpted but as strangers or enemies to her Maiestie your Soueraigne) do with one vniforme mind adore & imbrace her, and with al due deuotion accompt her for their Quene in succession, when God shal so dispose.

Close therefore no longer your eies so obstinately against Gods wonderful worke. You plainely see, that whome you would spot and defame, God wil haue cleared and shewed to be guiltelesse: whome you with armed forces did imprison and restraine, God set at libertie without any other hande or meane, then of her owne wisedome & policie: & whome you her subiectes & vassalles would dispossesse of a meaner kingdome

dome, vnto whiche thee was borne, God wil haue aduanced by strangers to a farre greater and more ample Dominion.

If this much you see not, behold then the blindnes of heart you are entred into, and see the plaine reprobate sense, vnto which ỹ iustice of God hath deliuered you ouer: & if you see it, and wil yet persist in it, though Gods grace faile you, let yet the vaine fame of the world and the idle reputation of menne, somwhat moue you. Suffer not your selues from mẽ to be changed into vnreasonable beastes, and to bee accompted sauage and wilde, woodde or starke mad, as al they are, that being once vnwares stepte ouer the shooes in an vnsauery place, wil yet ronne headlong forewarde, til he sinke in the same

ouer

ouer headde and eares, rather
then he woulde in time retire,
and clense his shoe againe.

It is humaine to fall and to
erre, but it is diuelish to persist
and continue. It is no shame
to returne from euill, but the
shame is to defend euil, & wil-
fully to rest therein. You haue
forsoth examples inongh, that
inuincibly do proue, that there
is no time past for your reco-
uerie, if you wil. For many are
there yet liuing emong you,
that once were parties with
you, whome Gods grace and
their owne honours and wise-
doms haue brought to see their
error, and to reformme ẏ same:
whereby they are euery waie
restored both to their Princes
fauour, and to their owne re-
putation in the iudgement of al
men. Feare not therefore, nor
for-

forbeare not any longer to follow their example, and to take that safe waie, that they haue troden before you, which is safe and assured for your selues presently, for your families & successions to come, and for your soules eternally.

If you thinke the weight of your crimes to bee more heinous, then can easily be pardoned: behold your Soueraignes clemencie, that singularly shineth emong and aboue al other her princely vertues, wherwith she is abundantly adorned. I nede not in this to spend many woordes, the examples thereof are so many, so fresh, and so sufficiently testified by the experience of many of your selues, vpon whome she hath exercised and put in vre the lesson of the Gospel, that teacheth none end Matt. 18.

to bee of forgeuing offenders, that doe in time duely seeke it.

Neither are you ignorant, that of herselfe she is both gratefull of nature, and wise in policie: by both which shee must of necessitie be induced, both hartily to forgiue them that nowe hartily turne vnto her, and to see that the state of her Realme, and of her owne person also are presently suche, that as it were in dede no policie for her to doe otherwise, so may your fidelities and seruices now stand her in such steade, as may iustly deserue the pardon you craue, and bind her in honour to remember them for euer.

If Gods holy woord (which you pretend to adore) do manifestly threatē a terrible reuenge to them that greue and oppresse the widdow or orphane (were

they

they the poorest that may go on the grounde): And if the state and dignitie of Gods annoynted be so sacred in his sight, that he forbiddeth the same once to be touched: shal these your insolencies then against your Soueraigne in her desolate widowhood escape vnpunnished, she being such a Queene, as for whom it semeth that euen from her birth not Scotland alone, but England, France, and Ireland to haue seemed to contend which of them should haue her for their Gouernesse & Queene: yea, whome God himself (foreknowing by his Diuine prescience, what a Paragon of vertue she should proue) seemeth verily to haue appointed to bee Queene in time of all fower Realmes.

Finally beholde, what hath

bene the euent and succesſe of al ſuch ſeditious conſpiracies in all times and ages before your daies. Peruſe ꝑ Hiſtories both of your owne, and of all other Countries. And if you litle eſteeme the memorie of things farre paſt, behold the experience of theſe preſent daies. Loke into all Countries and Nations neare adioyning vnto you, and you ſhal find, that none of them hath eſcaped from rebellion & inteſtine ſedition within ꝑ time of your owne memories, nor that yet they are cleerly deliuered of the dregges of the ſame. And what hath (I praie you) enſued theron? They haue kept in dede a great ſtur for a time, but what haue the Authors and mouers gained thereby, other then their owne vtter ruine & infamie for euer? And what is become

become of that they haue stri-
ued for: when they haue long
contended mutually emonge
them selues, and when ech hath
spilled much of others blood,
and many an honest man dead
in the quarrell: the matter for
the moste parte remaineth as it
was, and litle or nothing bring
they to passe of the huge altera-
tions that thei attempt, nor ne-
uer shal, therof assure you.

For the Maiestie of God that
is euer one and the same, neuer
prospereth ẏ vnlauful attempts
of Subiects against their Prin-
ces, enterprised by priuate au-
thoritie. Let Machiauel saie
what he list, & beleeue him who
wil: ye that are his disciples, to
your owne perditions you shal
find the ende as I tel you. For
bysides that Diuine authoritie
is promiseth it, and worldly ex-

perience so teacheth it, very reason also sheweth, that it can be none otherwise. For where the foundation is faultie & hollow, the more weight that is heaped and builded theron, the soner it bringeth the whole to ẏ groũd. And what hath ben the foundation of al these your garboiles, oth your selues do know, the world seeth, and I haue briefly told you, as this place wil permitte. Wherupon to build and heape on, any more of ẏ kind of stuffe, you shal finde it not only vaine and fruitlesse, but plainly pernicious, and to worke your owne destructions.

Al men that haue either learning, wit or common sense, discouering daily more and more the infinite calamities, and the very gasping death, as it were, of their whole Nation & Coun

trey

trey fast to approche by meane of these vprores and sturres, already doe, and daily will waxe weary thereof, detest the cause, and geue you ouer in the plaine field: and so would haue done (no doubte) eare this, if the swete taste of foreine rewardes had not holden them more, then any deuotion they haue now to you or your cause.

If stil you depend and hope vpon other Princes assistence: that wil but deceiue you. For as it is not vnknowen, from whence you haue had your supporte hitherto: so doth all the world well know withall, that for others owne policie onely, and not at all for yours, you were at the first suborned, and euer synce mainteined, to do, as you haue done: and to be but the ministers and instrumentes

in

in deede of their priuate practi-
ses, that neither long shal nede
your ministerie therin, nor shal
not for euer be hable to susteine
you in the same, but shall and
wil, care it be long, euen for
their owne better policie also,
ioyntly with al other Princes
abrode, abhorre and detest the
perilous president, that herein
you giue to the great multitude
that are subiectes borne euery
where.

And albeit some of them doe
for the time serue themselues of
you: yet doubt you nothing of
it, but that euen they that so do,
see well inough, knowe right
wel, and iudge both you and
your doings to be as they are,
and wil no longer spot and di-
staine their Princely persona-
ges and honourable vocations
with the maintenance of so dis-
honorable

honorable attemptes, and of so daungerouse examples to all Monarks and Kings: no longer, I saie, then whiles of mere necessitie, they shal thinke themselues thereto constrained by their own policie, but shal then leaue you in the middest, and let you go as you are, to your own perpetual infamies, and to the rasing and extirpation of your names and succession for euer, if you doe not reuoke your seluues, and retire in time: which that you may doe, God of his mercie graunt you the grace, &c.

FINIS.

A-E^{12} F^{6} (F6 blank, gone)
= 66-1 = 65 leaves